UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22687
11 June 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 JUNE 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose a letter dated 11 June 1991 addressed to you by the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Hussein, on the subject of Iraq's commitments under the terms of the international agreements on crimes of international terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Identical letters dated 11 June 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed respectively to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

With reference to paragraph 32 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), I have the honour to inform you that Iraq has already made known its position with respect to the crime of international terrorism. Iraq rejects all forms of violence which endanger the lives, liberty, security and peace of innocent persons, while reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination and the need to eliminate colonialism in all its forms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Iraqi Government has not hesitated to join with the international community in combating international terrorism and contributing effectively to the international efforts aimed at the attainment of that objective.

You are certainly aware that Iraq was occupying the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee when the General Assembly adopted by consensus, at its fortieth session, resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985 on international terrorism, and that on that occasion a large number of representatives praised the efforts made by the representative of Iraq with a view to achieving that end.

It should also be emphasized that Iraq is a party to the most important international conventions regarding crimes which can be classed as acts of terrorism, in particular the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo in 1963; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague in 1970, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal in 1971 and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, of 1973. In addition, Iraq participated actively in the final phases of the drafting of the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, of 1979, and has signed that Convention.

Moreover, in dealing with the problem of acts of terrorism Iraqi legislation both ensures the protection of its citizens against such acts and punishes those responsible for them. It should be pointed out in this connection that the Iraqi Penal Code does not regard acts of terrorism as political crimes.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has never pursued a policy favourable to international terrorism as defined by international law. In this respect, its position is fully in line with that of the majority of Members of the international community.

In view of the foregoing, I wish to inform you, with reference to paragraph 32 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), that Iraq will not commit or support any act of international terrorism or allow any organization directed towards commission of such acts to operate within its territory, and that it condemns unequivocally and renounces all acts, methods and practices of international terrorism.